



baywire

News and Updates from the Governing Board of
the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

BAYWIRE **June-July 2014 Edition**

Welcome to Tom Ford, SMBRC's New Executive Director!

By unanimous vote of the Governing Board, Tom Ford was ratified at the June 19th meeting as Executive Director of SMBRC. Not a stranger to SMBRC and The Bay Foundation, Tom has served as the Director of Marine Programs for the last four years, initiating and guiding key projects, garnering top grants, and bringing diverse groups together to protect and ensure clean water and a healthier environment for the Southern California coast.



Prior to joining SMBRC, Ford served as Executive Director for Santa Monica Baykeeper. Ford is best known for his leadership in the study and restoration of kelp forests in Santa Monica Bay.

"I am honored to have been named Executive Director," says Ford. "SMBRC's work is the nexus of science, policy and project implementation, which is a dream job for an ecologist, like me, working on the pressing environmental issues of our time."

Rave Reviews of Our Programs by the Visiting EPA Team!

An EPA team recently conducted an on-site visit of our programs as part of the National Estuary Program (NEP) evaluation held once every five years. The purpose of the evaluation is to help EPA determine whether the Santa Monica Bay NEP is making adequate progress implementing our Bay Restoration Plan and therefore merits continued funding under §320 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The EPA team was composed of NEP program coordinators from EPA headquarters, the Santa Monica Bay NEP program manager from EPA Region 9, and the Director of a sister NEP from San Juan Bay, Puerto Rico. During the two-day visit on June 10-11, the team attended program briefings by staff, met and spoke with our project partners and the SMBRC and TBF board members, and visited several project sites, including Malibu Lagoon, Ballona Wetlands, kelp forests, Westside Park storm water LID project, and Ballona Creek rain gardens. The team was genuinely impressed by, and gave high marks to, the amount, quality, innovative, and collaborative nature of the work we have accomplished. We are thankful for EPA's encouragement, support, and continued dedication to the NEPs. We are also very thankful to our partners who worked with us to make these projects happen and who helped to demonstrate our successes during the site visit.

Welcome Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society to the Watershed Advisory Council

By unanimous vote of the SMBRC Governing Board, the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society was elected to the Watershed Advisory Council. A long time presence in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed environmental scene, the Audubon Society has been a strong supporter of SMBRC projects, with its volunteers continually assisting us in our work, including the restoration of Malibu Lagoon. Welcome aboard!

Does Your Commercial Property Want A Free Rain Garden? Then We Want YOU!

Building upon the award winning Culver City Rainwater Harvesting Program, The Bay Foundation is currently seeking **commercial properties, preferably within Los Angeles City Council District 11**, to participate in a program to receive a **free rain garden** and potentially other rainwater harvesting strategies on their property. The Metropolitan Water District has provided The Bay Foundation funding to convert grass lawns on several properties to native planted rain gardens and may potentially include the installation of other water and energy conservation measures such as cisterns, curb cuts, and rain barrels on a property-specific basis.

Selected properties will be chosen this summer and monitored prior to rain garden installation for outdoor water consumption, runoff, and soil composition for at least nine months. Construction will occur in Spring 2015 and post-implementation monitoring will occur for a subsequent six months.

Prerequisites for qualifying properties:

- Must currently have an irrigated grass lawn and you are excited about ripping it out!
- Structure must be outfitted with gutters and downspouts.
- Property must be within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed (Ballona watershed preferred); email if you are unsure if your property qualifies.

If you are interested in participating in the project or have additional questions please email imedel@santamonicabay.org or call 310-873-3956.

Energy Efficiency & Water Conservation Grant Awarded to The Bay Foundation

As part of its Community Partnership Grants program, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has awarded The Bay Foundation a \$45,000 grant to promote energy efficiency and water conservation. The purpose of the grant is for Los Angeles-based organizations to creatively reach diverse communities, encouraging them to reduce their energy and water consumption through rebates, incentives, and conservation measures. This benefits the environment and saves money! The Bay Foundation will develop Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that will focus on home and business retrofitting, lawn replacement with rain gardens and drought tolerant plants, and rainwater harvesting techniques for maximum energy and water conservation. A "How-To" video will also be produced to easily guide the viewer through the step-by-step process of implementing rainwater harvesting strategies to enhance their property and maximize environmental benefits. A diverse outreach strategy will include social media, newsletters, press releases, volunteer events and workshops with many partners.

The Community Partnership Grants are one part of a comprehensive package of energy efficiency and water conservation programs offered by LADWP that will help meet the Department's goal of reducing energy consumption among customers by up to 15% by 2020 and further increase water conservation by customers.

Halibut Sexting (No, Not a Typo...)

Thanks to a grant from Collaborative Fisheries Research West, The Bay Foundation and the Marina Del Rey Anglers have been partnering to develop a web-based, data reporting tool and fishing journal. The goal is for fishermen to be able to submit data about halibut to the Department of Fish and Wildlife through a convenient platform that also allows them to log and track their own fishing successes, and share their fish photos with their friends.

The beta version of the app will be launched at the Marina Del Rey Anglers 38th Annual Halibut Derby on Saturday, July 12th. Further testing and refinement will continue through the summer.

Contact Lia Protopapadakis (lprotopapadakis@santamonicabay.org) for more information.

Urban Coast Journal Gets a Makeover

After the publication of four volumes since its launch in 2009, the *Urban Coast*, our Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies' highly acclaimed multidisciplinary science and policy journal, will undergo a short hiatus before it is re-launched this fall in a new format.

The renewed journal will be moved on-line with its own website at www.urbancoast.org.

While maintaining its distinctive focus on applied science and policy development, the new format will allow us to expand the journal's range of topics and the base of its contributors, publish it more frequently, and increase its readership. Stay tuned!

The Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies is a program of Loyola Marymount University's Seaver College of Science and Engineering and The Bay Foundation.

In The News

The media have been highlighting some of our programs and staff of late, including:

Victoria Ippolito, Grants and Programs Coordinator, was invited to TEDxLSU to speak. Check out her talk [HERE](#)!

A KPCC story on the MDR fish kill included Tom Ford's input on changing ocean temperatures – please click [HERE](#), and the Argonaut also tapped Tom on climate change in the same context – please click [HERE](#).

Great news from the Malibu Lagoon front and the steelhead trout sighting:

[KPCC story](#)

[Maven's Notebook](#)

[Santa Monica Mirror](#)

[KCET ReWild Blog](#)

[Malibu Times](#)

The new Los Angeles *Register* did a three-page spread – starting top center on the front page - with incredible graphics (not seen online) about the Malibu Lagoon. Please see text [HERE](#).

Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Scientist and Project Manager, provided input on the sea stars disease story in the *Daily Breeze* – please click [HERE](#).

Tom Ford's TBF Executive Director announcement in a [Daily Breeze](#) story, and via [video interview](#) with the *Westside Daily* editor.

Social Media IS Important and Fun!

If you're a social media maven or even a dabbler, we ask that you engage, share and use our Social Media avenues.

Facebook: LIKE us at [“Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation”](#)

Twitter: Follow us at [@SMBRF](#)

Instagram: Follow us at [@TheBayFoundation](#)

YouTube: Join us at [“Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation”](#)

*Please go that extra step and invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow.

And did you know you can find a Clean Bay Restaurant certified by SMBRC on our site? Check out your local DINING option at

<http://www.santamonicabay.org/CleanRestaurants/cleanrestaurants.html>

2014 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates

The SMBRC Governing Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of the even-numbered months from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Del Rey Yacht Club.

The remaining 2014 meeting dates are:

- August 21
- October 16
- December 18

The Del Rey Yacht Club is located at 13900 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey CA 90292.

For additional information concerning any meeting, please contact Scott Valor at 310-922-2376 or by e-mail at svalor@santamonicabay.org . You may also visit our website at www.smbrc.ca.gov .

Check Out Our Website

Please check out SMBRC's website: www.smbrc.ca.gov . To streamline access to our Governing Board agendas, schedules, and staff reports, the new website features only information that is most critical to following the month-to-month activities of the SMBRC's bodies.

The SMBRC's partner, The Bay Foundation, has a new and improved website! Check it out at www.santamonicabay.org . It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org .